MARVEL

002

KORVAC SAGA™

ABNETT SCHMIDT PETER

SECRET WARS

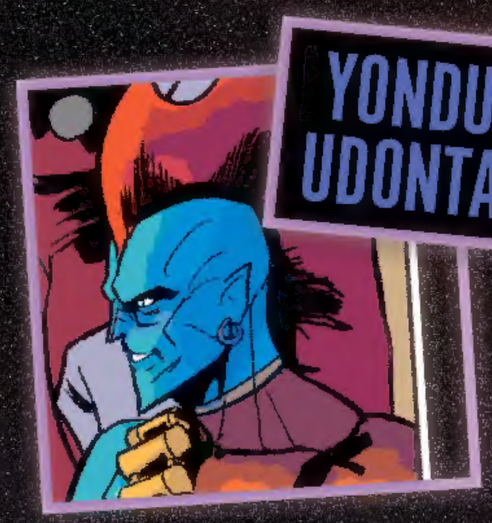
THE MULTIVERSE WAS DESTROYED...ALL THAT REMAINS IS
BATTLEWORLD!

GUARDIANS - DUTY ROSTER:

STARHAWK
(MANSION SANCTUM OVERWATCH)

MAJOR VICTORY
(MOBILE COMMAND)

CHARLIE-27



YONDU UDONTA

MARTINEX

NICHOLETTE GOLD

GEENA DRAKE
(ASSISTANCE, MANSION SANCTUM OVERWATCH)

THE FOLLOWING SUPPORT STAFF MEMBERS ARE EXPECTED FOR DUTY ROTATION AS OF 6:00 AM WEDNESDAY:

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FOR IMMEDIATE IMPLEMENTATION - ALL SECURITY DIVISIONS

REFERENCE: OFFICIAL VISIT OF BARON SIMON WILLIAMS ("THE WONDER MAN") OF THE HOLY WOOD

SECURITY PROVISION TO BE AT "ALPHA STAR" LEVEL FOR THE DURATION OF VISIT. ALL INCIDENTS OF THE "MADNESS OUTBREAK" MUST BE REPORTED TO OVERWATCH FOR INVESTIGATION, AS PER ORDER OF OUR ESTEEMED BARON, MICHAEL KORVAC. INFORMATION PERTAINING TO THE OUTBREAK IS FOR GUARDIANS' EYES ONLY.

BE ADVISED THAT BARON WILLIAMS WILL BE ESCORTED BY HIS AVENGERS PROTECTION DETAIL: CAPTAIN MARVEL (COMMAND), BLACK WIDOW, HERCULES, YELLOWJACKET, BLACK PANTHER, MOONDRAGON, VISION AND JOCASTA. JURISDICTIONAL COOPERATION EXPECTED AT ALL TIMES.

PROTECTION OF BARON MICHAEL KORVAC AND HIS WIFE, CARINA KORVAC, HAS PRIORITY.

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THE FOREST HILLS.

10TH STREET SUBWAY STATION.

GUARDIAN OVERWATCH, THIS IS *NIKKI GOLD.*

I'M AT 10TH STREET STATION, WESTBOUND SIDE.

PLEASE TELL ME WHAT THE FLARK I'M SUPPOSED TO BE LOOKING FOR.

NICHOLETTE...

...THIS IS STARHAWK AT OVERWATCH.

PSIONIC DISTORT INDICATES THAT A ***MADNESS SPIKE*** IS IMMINENT WITHIN THIRTY YARDS OF YOUR PRESENT POSITION.

SEND THE LATEST DATA TO NICHOLETTE'S BIKE TERMINAL, GEENA.

ON IT, SIR.

DAY LIKE THIS, THAT'S *ALL* WE NEED.

PEOPLE! CLEAR THIS STATION ***NOW!*** BY ORDER OF ***BARON KORVAC'S GUARDIANS!***

FIND AN EXIT! ***MOVE!***

KEEP AN EYE OPEN FOR STRANGE ANOMALIES OF THE MADNESS--WE STILL HAVEN'T IDENTIFIED THE ROOT CAUSE.

*NICHOLETTE--THE BARON'S WELCOME PARADE IS ABOUT TO PASS WITHIN **THREE BLOCKS** OF YOUR LOCATION...*

*"...**BARON MICHAEL KORVAC,** HIS **WIFE** AND OUR DISTINGUISHED VISITOR, **BARON SIMON WILLIAMS,** ARE IN TOW. IT IS **VITAL** WE KEEP THE--"*

"YEAH, ***YEAH,*** 'HAWK. ABSOLUTELY AVOID ***DISRUPTION*** TO THE BIG EVENT AND--"

GNNRRRAAAGGHH!

--UGNHHN!

NICHOLETTE? NIKKI?

NIKKI, RESPOND!

DOMAIN FOREST HILLS! THANK YOU FOR THIS WELCOME!

MOONDRAGON? PSI-SCAN.

YOUR AVENGERS HAVE EYES ON THE CROWD, BARON WILLIAMS. NO CAUSE FOR CONCERN.

BUT I SENSE SOMETHING IS *IRRITATING* BARON KORVAC.

HA! THE FACT THAT HIS CITIZENS ADORE ME *MORE* THAN HIM.

HEY! *HELLO!*

IT IS *INDISPUTABLY* THAT, SIR.

"*LOOK* AT HIM... *WONDER MAN* AND HIS FAMOUS *AVENGERS*..."

...THE PEOPLE HAVE FLOCKED OUT TO SEE THE FLOATERCADE PASS BY, LIKE ***SHEEP***, LIKE--

MICHAEL, MY LOVE. THE WONDER MAN'S APPROVAL RATING IS ***PRECISELY*** WHY AN ACCORD BETWEEN OUR DOMAINS IS DESIRABLE.

MUTUAL SUPPORT AND STRENGTH IN THESE DIFFICULT TIMES.

AT THE WELCOME LAST NIGHT, HE ***SAID*** THINGS.

THINGS?

PRIVATELY. TO ME. HE HAS ***CONCERNS.***

IT'S ***GAME PLAY.*** HE WANTS THE TRADE ACCORD TO FAVOR THE HOLY WOOD'S INTERESTS. HE WANTS POWER. HE WANTS ***MY*** KINGDOM.

HE'S A ***STAR,*** MICHAEL. HE'S ***ALWAYS*** BEEN POPULAR WITH THE MASSES. THE SMILE, THE PHYSIQUE, THE GLAMOR.

GIVE HIS ***EGO*** THIS MOMENT. YOU ARE ***BARON KORVAC*** OF ***THE FOREST HILLS.*** YOU WILL ***OUTPLAY*** HIM WHEN IT COMES TO NEGOTIATIONS AT THE TABLE.

GRRAAAAANNGG!

FLARK! ***FLARK!*** ***NGHH!***

KRANGHH

NIKKI? NIKKI!

MAJOR ASTRO REPORTS HE IS *EN ROUTE* TO ASSIST HER, STARHAWK.

CONTACT THE BARON, PLEASE, GEENA.

INFORM HIM-- ***PRIVATELY***--THAT THERE IS A SITUATION AT 10TH STREET, BUT THE PARADE IS ***NOT*** IN JEOPARDY.

NRRAAAAGGGH!

F-FLARK. N-NOT LIKE *THIS*--

GET ***CLEAR,*** GOLD!

--GAAH!

WHAAAA

YES! T.K. THAT FLARKNARD BLOB INTO *NEXT WEEK*, VANCE!

HE TRASHED MY *FLIGHT-BIKE!*

GRRYYNNNKK!

WE CAN GET YOU A *NEW* BIKE.

WE *CAN'T* CONTAIN THE MASS PANIC IF THIS OUTBREAK REACHES THE STREET.

MARTINEX!

CONTAINING NOW, MAJOR VICTORY.

NREAAAAAAAHHH!

DOOM HELP US, *FLAMES* AREN'T GONNA HOLD IT! THAT BLOB-THING IS *POWERFUL!*

MRRRAAAGHH!

TOLD YOU SO.

ANOTHER MANIFESTATION? IS THIS CONFIRMED, OVERWATCH? LET ME SPEAK WITH STARHAWK.

NO, NO, I--

OVERWATCH, HOLD THE LINE...

We Love A

SIR? MR. BARON?

...CARINA? CARINA, ARE YOU WELL?

STAR. HE'S A SHINING STAR.

THERE USED TO BE STARS. WH-WHERE ARE ALL THE STARS?

WHAT IN DOOM'S NAME--?!

NNNGHH!

WHAT... WHAT IS...?

GOD DOOM!

GNNHHH!

EMERGENCY! ATTACK IN PROGRESS!

PROTECT BARON KORVAC!

WHAT *IS* THAT?

AVENGERS... *ASSEMBLE!*

I'VE GOT YOU, MR. BARON!

MNHHH! CH-CHARLIE--

I'VE *GOT* YOU!

WHAT? BARON KORVAC, *WAIT!*

STAY BACK! *I'LL* DEAL WITH IT!

GROOGGH!

MOVE, SIR!

SHE... SHE *CHANGED...* BEFORE MY *EYES!*

I HAVE TO HELP HER! *HELP* HER!

THE WONDER MAN DOES NOT *COWER* FROM DANGER, MOONDRAGON!

THREAT REALIZED. *PROTECT THE PRINCIPAL, AVENGERS!*

GOD DOOM! SOME *MINDLESS* THING! IT MUST *DIE!*

GOLD! YOUR CANNONS DIDN'T WORK LAST TIME!

WHICH IS WHY I CHECKED .40 CAL AUTOKINETICS AND DEPLETED URANIUM PENETRATOR ROUNDS OUT OF THE MANSION ARMORY, VANCE.

CHECK IT.

I KILLED THE DISGUSTING BLOB.

WE HAVE GOT TO IDENTIFY THE CAUSE OF THESE MANIFESTATIONS.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY STARHAWK CAN'T--

MAJOR VICTORY. RESPOND.

STARHAWK, GO.

IT WHAT? WHAT?!

VANCE?

WHAT'S HAPPENED?

VANCE, WHAT'S HAPPENED?

GROOOAAAGHH!

COME AT ME!

SIR! DO *NOT* ENGAGE THAT THING YOURSELF! LET US--

GET *CLEAR*, BARON WILLIAMS!

DAMN YOU, GUARDIAN! I HAD IT!

GRUUGHHH!

GET BACK! CLEAR THE STREET! *CLEAR THE STREET!*

KRAKOOOM

MAN, YOU'RE A *TOUGH* SUNOVA--

CHARLES, YOU *WEAKLING!* LET ME SHOW YOU HOW THE HERO *HERCULES* DEALS WITH MONSTERS!

NOTHING THREATENS THE WONDER MAN AND LIVES, MINDLESS ONE!

KNOW OUR *VENGEANCE!*

HOLD IT STILL, HERCULES.

TERMINAL STRIKE IN THREE, TWO--

KWWNNNGHHH

MMNNH!

A-HA! FEARSOME WORK, MY CAPTAIN!

SO PERISH ALL MONSTERS THAT WOULD--

--OH, HORROR.

GREAT GOD DOOM.

IT WAS CARINA KORVAC.

THAT'S NOT...THAT--THAT CAN'T BE...

CARINA? WHERE IS CARINA?

LET ME THROUGH! WHERE IS MY WIFE?

GUARDIANS' MANSION.

I WANT TO SPEAK TO MICHAEL...

...FACE-TO-FACE. *NOW.*

BARON KORVAC IS *GRIEVING*, BARON WILLIAMS.

I THINK YOU CAN ALLOW HIM SOME TIME TO *COMPOSE* HIMSELF.

DID YOU *SEE* WHAT HAPPENED TODAY, MAJOR VICTORY?

A *MINDLESS HORROR* ATTACKED THE FLOATERCADE WITH *LETHAL* INTENT--

WITH RESPECT, SIR, I *DID* SEE.

I SAW OUR BARON'S WIFE LYING *DEAD.*

MAJOR, MY GOOD FRIEND, I *ADORED* CARINA KORVAC.

SHE WAS A WOMAN OF EXTRAORDINARY QUALITIES. I MOURN FOR HER. MICHAEL'S LOSS MUST BE UNBEARABLE.

BUT IT WAS A *MONSTER*, SIR. A MONSTER LOOSE IN YOUR CITY.

BEFORE MY VISIT, I HAD HEARD *RUMORS* OF PROBLEMS IN THE FOREST HILLS.

I *CONFESS*, I THOUGHT TO USE THE ISSUE AS POLITICAL LEVERAGE.

BUT THE MONSTERS ARE *REAL*, AREN'T THEY, MAJOR?

THIS DANGER JEOPARDIZES THE IMPLEMENTATION OF *ANY* ACCORD BETWEEN THE FOREST HILLS AND THE HOLY WOOD.

BECAUSE YOU WOULD NOT BE *TAINTED BY ASSOCIATION?*

THESE THINGS ARE A *BLASPHEMY* AGAINST THE WORLD, MARTINEX. A CRIME AGAINST THE ORDER OF *DOOMLAW!*

YOUR DOMAIN IS *UNSOUND.*

I HAVE KNOWN THE ALMIGHTY THORS TO RAZE KINGDOMS TO *CINDERS* FOR LESSER INFRACTIONS!

ALL THE MORE REASON OUR DOMAINS SHOULD STAND *TOGETHER.* IN *ACCORD.*

HOW SO?

IF IT'S HAPPENING *HERE,* SIR, HOW LONG BEFORE IT STARTS HAPPENING IN THE HOLY WOOD, TOO?

MANSION ROOF TERRACE.

I *KILLED* HER.

YOU DID YOUR *JOB*, CAPTAIN. AS I WOULD HAVE DONE.

AVENGERS. GUARDIANS. WE SERVE OUR LORDS. OUR DUTIES ARE SOMETIMES A *BURDEN.*

BUT THERE MAY HAVE BEEN A WAY TO *SUBDUE* HER. I SANCTIONED WITHOUT *HESITATION.*

YESTERDAY AND TODAY, I HAVE FACED MONSTERS IN THESE STREETS.

BOTH TIMES, I HAVE BEEN OBLIGED TO SANCTION. *BOTH* TIMES I HAVE WISHED THERE HAD BEEN OTHER OPTIONS.

WHAT KIND OF *ENEMY* ARE WE FACING, VANCE?

A CONCEPTUAL VIRUS. A WEAPONIZED MEME. STARHAWK HAS THEORIES.

BEYOND *THAT,* I HAVE NO IDEA.

WE'D BETTER GET AN IDEA *SOON,* VANCE...

"...BEFORE DOOM RULES THIS REGION TOO CONTAMINATED TO *EXIST.*"

I COULDN'T HELP HER.

BEFORE MY VERY EYES SHE BECAME...

SHE WAS *EVERYTHING* TO ME.

BARON KORVAC?

IT IS BEYOND BELIEF, SIR

I AM SO SORRY.

THE DOMAIN MUST STAND, STAKAR.

FIND THIS MADNESS, OLD FRIEND. FIND IT *NOW.*

CARINA...

WHAT ARE *YOU* DOING IN MY SANCTUM, AVENGER? I HAVE WORK TO DO

SHE CAME TO OFFER *HELP,* SIR.

PERHAPS *PSIONIC REINFORCEMENT* TO ASSIST YOUR MIND-SEARCHES, STARHAWK.

YOUR POWERS ARE *WEAK* NEXT TO MINE, MOONDRAGON.

YES, BUT *CONJOINED,* THEY WILL BE *STRONGER* THAN YOURS ALONE.

THE VICTIMS SPEAK OF *STARS.* A *CHANGED* CONDITION OF REALITY.

IT SOUNDS LIKE MADNESS, BUT WHAT IF IT *ISN'T?*

CAREFUL, GIRL.

WHAT IF IT *ISN'T* AN INFECTION? WHAT IF IT *IS* A CHANGED CONDITION OF REALITY?

THAT KIND OF HERESY WILL EARN YOU A *DISINTEGRATION ORDER* FROM DOOMGARD.

AREN'T YOU ANXIOUS TO EXPLORE *EVERY* POSSIBILITY, STARHAWK?

EVEN THE *UNTHINKABLE* ONES?

MICHAEL KORVAC IS MY FRIEND AND MENTOR. I CANNOT *BEAR* TO SEE HIM IN SUCH DISTRESS.

I WOULD DO *ANYTHING* FOR HIM.

STARHAWK? STAKAR? CAN YOU *HEAR* ME?

YES, MOONDRAGON.

I AM FOCUSING ON THE FIRST REPORTED VICTIM. OUR *"PATIENT ZERO."* PERHAPS THROUGH THEIR LIFE TRACE, WE CAN IDENTIFY THE ORIGIN OF THIS THREAT.

WHERE *ARE* YOU, SIR?

I HAVE PROJECTED MY ***THOUGHTFORM*** *ACROSS THE DOMAIN. I AM EXTENDING MY WILL* ***BEYOND*** *THE MATERIAL FABRIC OF BATTLEWORLD.*

I SEE THE PSYCHIC RESIDUE OF THE INITIAL VICTIM. I WILL TRACK IT.

I SEE REALITY'S ***INNER STRUCTURE.*** *IT IS...* ***MISMATCHED.***

AS IF IT HAS BEEN ***DISMANTLED*** *AND THEN* ***RECOMPOSED.*** *A* ***PATCHWORK.***

BE CAREFUL, STAKAR. DO YOU *FEEL* THAT?

THE ASTRAL PLAIN SEEMS UNNATURALLY *STRESSED* AND *DISTORTED.*

I WILL *REINFORCE* YOUR THOUGHTFORM'S INTEGRITY, BUT MY PSIONIC AMPLIFICATION HAS ITS *LIMITS.*

ARE YOU *SURE?*

I AM SURE OF NOTHING. I HAVE NEVER PERCEIVED BATTLEWORLD ON SUCH A SUBTLE LEVEL BEFORE. I--

STARHAWK?

THERE'S SOMETHING THERE ON THE ASTRAL PLANE *WITH* HIM.

WHAT ARE YOU? ARE YOU THE SOURCE? ARE YOU THE THING FROM WHICH THIS MADNESS LEAKS?

SPEAK! ARE YOU THE ENEMY? WHAT IS YOUR PURPOSE?

DOOM.

EAAAAARRRGGHH--

NEXT: MADE OF STARS

ZONE